PACIFIC SCHOOL OF RELIGION

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# CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

## A Word of Greeting

To all Congregational Christian readers:

Welcome back to CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY, all you who read WORKSHOP with great delight and satisfaction, and all you Congregational Christian pastors and social action committee members who are reading this periodical for the first time. You have a rare treat in store for you. More of news of what other churches are doing in social action; more information about what is going on in the United Church of Christ and in the National Council of Churches; more of everything about the programs of the Commission on Christian Social Action of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, as well as the Council for Social Action.

I invite you "back" to CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY because it was begun as a

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## FROM THE EDITOR

As far back as January 1949, CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY was brought into being as the news and program service of the Council for Social Action of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Commission on Christian Social Action of the Evangelical and Reformed Church. At that time it was the successor of TOGETHER and CHRISTIAN SOCIAL ACTION BULLETIN, previously published by these two agencies.

At that time it was our common hope that the union of our two denominations would soon be effected. We did not anticipate the delays which would postpone the organization of the United Church of Christ. For nearly six years CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY was a jointly published periodical.

In September of 1954, it appeared that the needs of the two agencies for a medium of communication could better be met in a different way. The Council

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# UNITED COUNCIL CONSTITUTED

## Henry Koch Elected Chairman, Ray Gibbons Director of United Church Social Action Agency

The Council for Christian Social Action of the United Church of Christ held its organization meeting Thursday, June 27, in Cleveland. Consisting of twelve persons representing the former Evangelical and Reformed constituency and twelve persons the former Congregational Christian constituency of the United Church of Christ, this body has been given the responsibility by the Basis of Union, With Interpretations, of unifying the work of the Council for Social Action and the Commission on Christian Social Action. The twenty-four members were elected by the Uniting General Synod on June 26.

Dr. Percy L. Julian, chairman of the Council for Social Action, as convener of the meeting, presided, and Dr. Henry C. Koch, chairman of the Commission on Christian Social Action, offered the constituting prayer.

As one of the first items of business, the Council proceeded to elect officers and the staff, and to provide for the cooperative carrying on of its work until a constitution is adopted for the United Church, or until other actions can be taken.

The officers of the new council are: Chairman, the Reverend Henry C. Koch, D. D., pastor of Concordia Evangelical and Reformed Church, Washington, D. C.; Vice Chairman, Dr. Percy L. Julian, research chemist and director of the Julian Laboratories, Chicago, Ill.; Secretary, Mrs. F. P. Brasseur, Cleveland, Ohio, long active in the work of the Congregational

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**Chosen to head the Council for Christian Social Action are Dr. Ray Gibbons, Director; Dr. Henry C. Koch, Chairman; Dr. Percy L. Julian, Vice-Chairman; Mrs. F. P. Brasseur, Secretary; Dr. Huber F. Klemme, Associate Director. Treasurer Harold C. Kropf was not present when the picture was taken.**

# TULSA DID IT

Three years ago a Negro couple applied for membership in the new "Fellowship Church" (Congregational Christian) in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The husband is the son of a Congregational minister and a member of a Congregational church. Several very influential members importuned the Board of Deacons to the effect that they would withdraw their membership and support if the Negro couple were admitted. The Deacons decided to ask the couple to postpone their request for two years so that the peace and harmony of the new church would not be jeopardized.

The Social Action Committee of Fellowship Church sent a strong letter of protest on October 21, 1954 expressing its "sore disappointment" at this action of the Deacons. A number of individual members of the church did the same. At a meeting of the church the Deacons explained that the two year period was a preparatory interval but that they had made no special plans to prepare the congregation for integration. The Social Action Committee accepted the responsibility. Members of the Committee attended the summer Social Action Institute and received counsel and encouragement. They secured letters of support from denominational secretaries; but the Committee felt that suspicion, fear and maneuvering continued through the following fall and that in January, as one expressed it, "we are at a rather awkward standstill."

In February the denominational Secretary for Church and Race, Galen Weaver, met with the Social Action Committee, the pastor and several church officers. Upon the request of the chairman of the Deacons he sent a series of suggestions for constructive action. These were

1. That a definite date be set by the officers after which persons would be welcomed into membership without regard to their race. The date was set for January, 1956.

2. That members of the congregation be encouraged to express their opinions in letters or on questionnaire forms.

3. That the Social Action Committee analyze the responses and arrange a series of meetings of the congregation to discuss them.

These suggestions were followed. During the year there were also some changes in the constituency of the Board of Deacons and there was a change of pastors. The new leadership followed through with the plan. The replies to the questionnaire were most encouraging and positive. Both in the discussions in the Deacons' meetings and in the congregational meetings there was increasing support for the proposal. Fears were allayed, and the facts of what happens when a church opens its membership became better understood.

When revisions were made in the church constitution the Deacons recommended adding to the article dealing with reception of new members the phrase, "regardless of race or class." At the annual meeting early in 1957 this proposal received far beyond the necessary two-thirds vote for ratification. The Board of Deacons then invited the Negro couple to become members. A very few members withdrew.

"Fellowship Church" has justified its name and integrated its membership in advance of the schools in the city. Our hearty congratulations to the committee and the congregation.

## FROM THE EDITOR

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for Social Action therefore published WORKSHOP as a section of SOCIAL ACTION, while the Commission continued its interest in CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY.

Now, at length, the Uniting General Synod has taken place and the Council for Christian Social Action has been formed. While for certain legal and practical reasons the identity of the former organizations will be maintained, it has been agreed that wherever possible we shall work as one.

The editor of CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY takes some satisfaction in the realization that one of the first visible fruits of this decision is the re-emergence of CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY as the organ of the UNITED fellowship. It is hoped that it may serve our churches, our program, and our witness better than ever. With the help of the members of the Council, the editor's colleagues on the staff, and the ministers and lay people who make the news and, we hope, will write it up, it will.

*Huber F. Klemme*

## A Word of Greeting

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joint publication and the CSA withdrew when it incorporated a section on news and program suggestions in SOCIAL ACTION. Now, under the plans for unification of program in the United Church, SOCIAL ACTION becomes a joint publication and the WORKSHOP materials will be incorporated in CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY. Furthermore, CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY will be sent to all subscribers to SOCIAL ACTION free upon request. In this way the subscribers will have more pages devoted to current issues and departments in the magazine and also a larger news and program service in the periodical CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY. However, both publications will be issued nine times a year instead of ten, beginning with this issue.

Another change is in the distribution of free copies. Formerly the CSA provided free copies in quantities as well as to individuals. Now we will send CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY to individuals who request it but quantity orders for subscriptions are five dollars per year for ten copies of each issue.

The editor of CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY Huber F. Klemme, maintains a high standard and exceedingly helpful publication. All members of the staffs of both agencies will contribute news and articles to CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY as well as to SOCIAL ACTION. Every effort will be made to meet the needs of the readers in the program of social education and action in our churches. And to the Evangelical and Reformed readers of CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY our thanks for your hearty invitation to join you in sharing your top-notch publication, CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY. We reciprocate by inviting you to subscribe to and regularly read SOCIAL ACTION. We join you in this common venture with genuine enthusiasm.

*Ray Gibbons*

## SOCIAL ACTION CALENDAR

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| **September 1** | **Labor Sunday: Use the Labor Sunday Message** |
| **October 14-16** | **United Nations — World Order Seminar, New York City** |
| **October 27** | **World Order Sunday** |
| **October 28** | **Race Relations Committee Meeting, Hotel Hollenden, Cleveland** |
| **October 29-31** | **Council for Christian Social Action Meeting, Hotel Hollenden, Cleveland, Ohio** |

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**Present as the Council for Christian Social Action was organized were: standing, rear, F. Nelsen Schlegel, Henry C. Koch, Percy L. Julian, Mrs. F. P. Brasseur, Huber F. Klemme, Ray Gibbons, Leonard C. Brecher, Herman F. Reissig; around the table, clockwise, beginning at the left: Roy Eilers, Galen R. Weaver, Richard Chamberlain, C. B. Newell, Miss Fern Babcock, Everett W. MacNair, Robert D. Smink, Ralph D. Hyslop, Herbert E. Baldwin, James H. Lightbourne, Jr., Robert H. Marshall, Hugo W. Thompson (standing), Alfred F. Schroeder, Clyde C. Flannery, Chester L. Marcus, Myron W. Fowell, Walter S. Press, Clarence E. Josephson, Mrs. Charles E. Bingham.**

## United Council Constituted

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Christian Women's Fellowship, the Council for Social Action, and the United Church Women; Treasurer, Mr. Harold C. Kropf, Orrville, Ohio, attorney.

Other members of the executive committee, in addition to the above four officers, are: The Reverend Myron W. Fowell, associate minister and secretary of the Massachusetts Congregational Conference; Mrs. Charles E. Bingham of Newton, N. J.; the Reverend Walter S. Press, pastor of Bethlehem Evangelical and Reformed Church, Ann Arbor, Mich.; Mr. C. B. Newell, district director of the United Steel Workers of America—AFL-CIO, Bethlehem, Pa.

The seven members of the staffs of the uniting agencies will constitute the staff of the new council, with the following allocation of responsibilities: Dr. Ray Gibbons of New York, director; Dr. Huber F. Klemme of Cleveland, Ohio, associate director; the Reverend F. Nelsen Schlegel of Cleveland, Ohio, field secretary; the Reverend Herman F. Reissig of New York, international relations secretary, the Reverend Messrs. Chester L. Marcus of Cleveland, and Galen R. Weaver of New York, racial and cultural secretaries; Miss Fern Babcock of New York, publications secretary and editor of SOCIAL ACTION.

It was determined that the council would publish CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY as a news and program service, with Dr. Klemme having general staff responsibility for editing it; and SOCIAL ACTION as a monthly journal of Christian concern for education and interpretation of social issues in the light of Christian faith, with Miss Babcock as editor serving under a joint editorial board.

The Council for Christian Social Action will have as its headquarters both 289 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y., and 2969 West 25th Street, Cleveland 13, Ohio. Publications of the two former agencies, as well as publications of the United Council, will be available from both addresses. A leaflet, entitled *Current and AVAILABLE . . .*, listing the publications handled by these offices, may be secured on request.

In addition to the four officers and members of the executive committee, the following persons constitute the council: Mr. Herbert E. Baldwin, Mrs. John C. Bennett, the Reverend Theodore A. Braun, Mr. Leonard C. Brecher, the Reverend Roy Eilers, the Reverend Joseph Evans, the Reverend Clyde C. Flannery, Professor Ralph Hyslop, the Reverend Clarence E. Josephson, the Reverend Everett W. MacNair, Mr. Milton W. Meyers, Mrs. William D. Powell, the Reverend Alfred F. Schroeder, Mr. Robert D. Smink, Mrs. Paul Tanner and Professor Hugo W. Thompson.

At the close of the meeting, Professor Ralph Hyslop of Union Theological Seminary, led in a prayer of dedication.

## VIEW U. S. POLICY, CHRISTIAN ETHICS

"Christian Ethics and American Foreign Policy" will be the major concern of the World Order and United Nations Seminar planned by the Council for Christian Social Action for October 14-16, 1957.

Sessions will begin on Monday at 9:30 A. M., at New York's famous Riverside Church, which enjoys a dual relationship with both the American Baptist Convention and the United Church of Christ. Experts from the State Department, from other governments and from private organizations will provide important background. Tuesday's program will include a visit to the UN, with briefings by representatives of the secretariat and attendance at committee or council sessions. Wednesday morning the Seminar will again meet at Riverside Church, to close at noon.

In announcing the selection of theme, Dr. Herman F. Reissig, international relations secretary of the Council stated, "Too much Christian good will goes to waste. This seminar will help you to work more effectively for better international relations."

Registrations, accompanied by $6 to cover program costs and dinner should be sent to Mr. Reissig in care of the Council for Christian Social Action, 289 Fourth Ave., New York 10, N. Y. Seminar members may reserve rooms at the Congregational Christian Service Center, 110 E. 29th St., or at nearby hotels, such as the Tudor (304 E. 42nd St.) and the George Washington (Lexington at 23rd).

**CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY**

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Ray Gibbons, Director
Huber F. Klemme, Associate Director and Editor
Sent free to pastors and social action committees.

Group subscriptions, 10 or more to one address, 50 cents each.

Individual subscriptions, $2 per year with SOCIAL ACTION.

General communications and orders from Evangelical and Reformed churches should be addressed to the Editor, Council for Christian Social Action, 2969 W. 25th St., Cleveland 13, Ohio.

Congregational Christians should order from Council for Christian Social Action, 289 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

The Council for Christian Social Action unites the work of the Council for Social Action of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Commission on Christian Social Action of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

# TWO STATES PLAN UNITED FIELD PROGRAM

Joint field programs are being conducted for the benefit of Congregational Christian and Evangelical and Reformed churches in two states during the approaching fall and winter. Upon recommendation of the Commission on Christian Social Action and the Council for Social Action, members of both staffs will participate in a series of regional workshops in Missouri and Ohio.

It has been customary in the Evangelical and Reformed Church each year to assign certain synods to various boards for special promotion and field service. The synods in Ohio and Missouri are among those so allocated in 1957-58. When the respective Congregational Christian state social action committees learned of the possibility of cooperation they expressed a strong interest in a joint program.

According to present plans, institutes are being set up in St. Louis, Webster Groves, Hermann, and Springfield, Missouri, as well as in the Kansas City area, during the early part of November. Similar institutes are being planned in Northeast and Northwest Ohio during December, in Southwest Ohio in January, and in Southeast Ohio the early part of February.

A typical feature of these institutes is an afternoon session comprising an address on the Christian Basis of Social Action and a discussion of a specific area of social concern, such as international relations. Following an evening meal, there is discussion of another topic such as race relations or social welfare, followed by a presentation of methods of organization and education for social action in the local church.

Pastors and congregations desiring further information should get in touch with the social action committees in their synod, association, or conference.

## FOR LABOR SUNDAY

The National Council of Chuches, as has been the custom for many years, has again issued a *Labor Sunday Message* for use in the churches on the Sunday preceding, or following, Labor Day. A copy is being sent with this issue of CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY to every pastor in our fellowship. Additional copies may be ordered from the National Council of Churches at 5 cents each, $3.50 per hundred. Please do not order from our own office since we have not arranged to stock or ship them.

Labor Sunday offers the local church an excellent opportunity to recognize the significance of the Christian calling for those who work, the importance of justice in economic relations, the responsibilities of those who constitute organized labor and organized management both in relation to their own groups and in relation to the community as a whole.

Inviting a labor representative to read the scripture lesson, to preach the sermon, or to address the adult class may in some instances be commended. It is, however, no substitute for year-round awareness of the importance of a Christian's daily work and earnest grappling with the relation of a man's faith and his job.

## Coming in SOCIAL ACTION

Ministers and members of committee on Christian social action will not want to miss a single issue of the "new" SOCIAL ACTION as it makes its appearance under the aegis of the United Church.

Consider, for example, the topics of the feature articles scheduled for the next few months:

September—FAMILY LIFE

October — THE PERIL AND PROMISE OF ATOMIC ENERGY

November—RACIAL INTEGRATION IN HOUSING

December — PROPHETIC PREACHING

In addition to thoughtful articles written to help busy ministers and lay people keep abreast of pressing social needs, there will be editorials; notes on books, plays, or radio and television programs; letters or comments on major articles; and a new section of worship resources for families, organizations, or congregations.

Nine issues for only $2. All of this and—if you request it and are not already getting it—CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY too. Do you know a better bargain anywhere?